

an anti-narcotics center in Panama. The whole premise for supporting an anti-drug center was to reassure those in this country that wanted the U.S. to remain in Panama that it was possible to do so and to avoid the controversy within Panama of retaining a bona fide military base in that country beyond 1999 and in violation of the Panama Canal Treaties. A multinational, anti-drug center seemed to fit the bill with at least a wink and a nod. Even the other nations of the region, while supporting the concept of an anti-narcotics center, were not about to sign on if the center was simply a cover for a U.S. military base.

Yet, the negotiations have broken down at least in part due to the Clinton Administration's insistence that it be allowed to conduct additional operations out of the center which are more closely associated with military operations than counter-narcotics operations. One can argue the finer points of search and rescue or humanitarian resupply, but to insist on them being part of a non-military base, anti-drug center, does give the Panamanian government a legitimate issue to argue over. It seems that both sides could compromise on this issue. The U.S. side could temporarily drop its insistence on the inclusion of other missions and just work on the anti-drug center, provided of course that the anti-drug center is the priority. The Government of Panama could commit, preferably in a side note, to take up the question of the other missions once the anti-drug center agreement is finalized, if it really wants such a center in Panama.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that both sides must determine what it really wants. President Balladares must face the voters. The Clinton Administration must face the American people. If the drug center is that important, and in many respects it is. And if the ability to retain some element of the U.S. military in Panama beyond 1999 is a political necessity, and it could be, then the Administration must decide the price in throwing away this opportunity solely because we may not be able to write into the agreement whether or not search and rescue training can be conducted once in a while in Panama over the next twelve years.

A TRIBUTE TO ERIC BACHMANN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life of Eric Bachmann, a remarkable young man who was working to preserve an important chapter in our nation's history. Tragically, Eric died on Saturday, July 11, one day before his 27th birthday.

Eric was the Assistant to the President and CEO at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. He also helped us develop the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act which will be signed into law soon. As we move forward to promote racial cooperation, we will continue to be motivated by Eric's spirit.

Eric graduated from Texas Tech in 1993 with a degree in history. Eric then moved on to the National Conference for Community and Justice (formerly the NCCJ), before beginning

his service as an official of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Healing the wounds of racial and social injustice was one of Eric's true passions, and he admired those who worked for freedom. These ideals led him to work diligently to honor the courage of those involved with the Underground Railroad.

Eric was loyal and dedicated. He served his community and country through his good work. All of us in Cincinnati will miss him as a colleague and friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall 266 on Wednesday, June 24. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on passage of H.R. 4103, the fiscal year 1999 defense appropriations bill.

THE FREEDOM AND PRIVACY RESTORATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Freedom and Privacy Restoration Act, which repeals those sections of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 authorizing the establishment of federal standards for birth certificates and drivers' licenses. This obscure provision, which was part of a major piece of legislation passed at the end of the 104th Congress, represents a major power grab by the federal government and a threat to the liberties of every American, for it would transform state drivers' licenses into national ID cards.

If this scheme is not stopped, no American will be able to get a job; open a bank account; apply for Social Security or Medicare; exercise their Second Amendment rights; or even take an airplane flight unless they can produce a state drivers' license, or its equivalent, that conforms to federal specifications. Under the 1996 Kennedy-Kassebaum health care reform law, Americans may even be forced to present a federally-approved drivers' license before consulting their physicians for medical treatment!

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has no constitutional authority to require Americans to present any form of identification before engaging in any private transaction such as opening a bank account, seeing a doctor, or seeking employment.

The establishment of a national standard for drivers' licenses and birth certificates makes a mockery of the 10th amendment and the principles of federalism. While no state is forced to conform their birth certificates or drivers' licenses to federal standards, it is unlikely they will not comply when failure to conform to federal specifications means none of that state's residents may get a job, receive Social Security, or even leave the state by plane? Thus, rather than imposing a direct mandate on the

states, the federal government is blackmailing states into complying with federal dictates.

Of course, the most important reason to support the Freedom and Privacy Restoration Act is because any uniform, national system of identification would allow the federal government to inappropriately monitor the movements and transactions of every citizen. History shows that when government gains the power to monitor the actions of the people, it eventually uses that power to impose totalitarian controls on the populace.

I ask my colleagues what would the founders of this country say if they knew the limited federal government they bequeathed to America would soon have the power to demand that all Americans obtain a federally-approved ID?

If the disapproval of the Founders is not sufficient to cause my colleagues to support this legislation, then perhaps they should consider the reaction of the American people when they discover that they must produce a federally-approved ID in order to get a job or open a bank account. Already many offices are being flooded with complaints about the movement toward a national ID card. If this scheme is not halted, Congress and the entire political establishment could drown in the backlash from the American people.

National ID cards are a trademark of totalitarianism and are thus incompatible with a free society. In order to preserve some semblance of American liberty and republican government I am proud to introduce the Freedom and Privacy Restoration Act. I thank Congressman BARR for joining me in cosponsoring this legislation. I urge my colleagues to stand up for the rights of American people by cosponsoring the Freedom and Privacy Restoration Act.

J.J. "JAKE" PICKLE FEDERAL BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tip my hat and pay tribute to former Congressman Jake Pickle for his service to the state of Texas and the people of the 10th Congressional District. Jake Pickle served with distinction and honor during his 31 years in Congress. I consider it a great privilege to have served with him. I now find it an honor to support H.R. 3223 which names the Federal Building in Austin, Texas, as the J.J. "Jake" Pickle Building. The bill has my wholehearted support and the man has my deepest respect.

Jake Pickle's legacy extends far beyond the naming of a building in his honor. His legacy lies in his many years of public service and the millions of Americans who have been touched by his devotion and dedication. Jake Pickle was an independent minded man who never shied from a fight, but who was always ready to listen to a problem and lend a helping hand. Jake Pickle looked beyond partisan politics to help insure that Social Security is solvent today and that the elderly have Medicare. He was instrumental in a wholesale reform of the tax code and in fostering government programs that spurred small business and created jobs for working families.